



Wednesday 22nd November 2023 / **Dydd Mercher 22 Tachwedd 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer / **Annwyl Riant/Gofalwr**

Inappropriate use of social media

I am writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding children's use of social media both in and out of school. This step has become necessary because, like many schools, we find ourselves in a number of challenging and avoidable situations due to pupils' inappropriate use of social media. Several pupils are using social media to be persistently unkind about other pupils over platforms such as Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram.

Facebook and social media sites like these are not legitimately accessible through the school network and therefore any access that a pupil gains during the school day is through the use of mobile phones or devices on their own 3G or 4G network, rather than school network or wifi.

Most recently I am concerned about groups on Snapchat and Instagram that have been created by pupils to showcase physical bullying on and off school site. This is leading to a lot of upset for parents/carers and children and it is not in line with our school ethos or values.

I would like to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure the groups are shut down. In addition significant sanctions are in place for where incidents occur under our positive engagement policy and the Welsh Government exclusion guidance [Exclusion from schools and pupil referral units](#).

In order for us to minimise these groups resurfacing we must ask for parents and carers continued support in educating our young people on the importance of kindness both on social media and in everyday life.

I would like to remind you that most social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over. If you do allow your child to access social media, we must stress the importance of vigilance. Just like their interaction in person, online interactions require supervision and support. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring phones and apps
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing messages they send
- Setting expectations
- Educating about appropriate use of apps

Whilst we appreciate the benefits of these forms of communication, many of our pupils are struggling when any problems or conflict arise as a result of what is being shared. We are asking for your partnership in dealing with this, as this is happening both inside and outside of school.

Yours faithfully / **Gyda diolch**

Ms C A Morris, Headteacher